

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08678 071805Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W
-----099283 071808Z /50
O 071753Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0560
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T GENEVA 08678

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652:XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: PRENOTIFICATION OF LARGE
CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS

REFS: (A) GENEVA 6106 - 21 JUL 77 (CTB NO.18A)
(B) STATE 246423 - 13 OCT 77 (STATE CTB NO.1)
(C) GENEVA 8860 - 18 OCT 77 (CTB NO.33)

CTB MESSAGE NO.229

1. ON JULY 21, 1977 WE INDICATED TO SOV DEL THAT WE WERE
GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO IDEA OF REQUIRING PRE-
NOTIFICATION OF ALL CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS GREATER THAN
SOME SPECIFIED AGREED YIELD AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR THE
PRESENCE OF LOCAL MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION FOR ALL
CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS GREATER THAN ANOTHER SPECIFIED AGREED
YIELD (REF A).

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2. IN OCTOBER 1977 BACKSTOPPING COMMITTEE PROVIDED
FURTHER GUIDANCE ON PRENOTIFICATION, SPECIFYING CERTAIN
INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CHEMICAL
EXPLOSIONS GREATER THAN 1,000 TONS OF TNT EQUIVALENT, AND
INDICATING THAT POSSIBILITY OF EMPLACING INSTRUMENTATION
FOR LOCAL MONITORING WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION
(REF B). DEL RESPONDED THAT PREFERENCE WAS TO AWAIT

INSTRUCTIONS ON LOCAL SEISMIC MONITORING ISSUE BEFORE
PRESENTING DETAILS OF PRENOTIFICATION ISSUE (REF C).
ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED WITH SOV DEL AGAIN.

3. DEL HAS RECENTLY REVIEWED ISSUE AND HAS SOME
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING APPROACH. DEL BELIEVES WE SHOULD
PROPOSE NOTIFICATION, IN SOMEWHAT LESS DETAIL THAN SPECI-
FIED IN REF B, FOR EXPLOSIONS EXCEEDING 500 TONS TNT
EQUIVALENT WITHIN ANY ONE-SECOND PERIOD. THIS WOULD LOWER
ENERGY LEVEL TRIGGERING PRENOTIFICATION FROM 1,000 TONS
TO 500 TONS, BUT WOULD SPECIFY ENERGY RELEASE WITHIN ANY
ONE-SECOND PERIOD AS BASIS FOR DETERMINATION. WE UNDER-
STAND THAT LARGE CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS USUALLY TAKE PLACE
OVER A PERIOD OF SECONDS OR EVEN MINUTES; THAT IS, FOR
MOST APPLICATIONS, LARGE EXPLOSIONS CONSIST OF SEVERAL
SMALLER INDIVIDUALLY-DETONATED CHARGES. (DEL SUGGESTS
ONE-SECOND INTERVAL SHOULD BE CHECKED FOR (1) ADEQUACY OF
SEISMIC VERIFICATION CAPABILITY TO DISTINGUISH POSSIBLE
COLLATERAL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, AND (2) COMPATIBILITY WITH
PRESENT USES OF CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS.) THESE WOULD NOT
REQUIRE PRENOTIFICATION UNLESS ENERGY RELEASE IN ANY
ONE-SECOND PERIOD EXCEEDED 500 TONS TNT EQUIVALENT.
RATIONALE FOR SEEKING 500-TON LEVEL (RATHER THAN 1,000
TONS) FOR TRIGGERING PRENOTIFICATION STEMS FROM DESIRE TO
AVOID PROVIDING BASIS FOR SOVIET PERCEPTIONS THAT WE ARE
NOT INTERESTED IN VERIFICATION BELOW 1-KT LEVEL, AS WELL
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AS FROM AWARENESS THAT CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS GENERATE
LARGER SEISMIC SIGNALS THAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS OF COM-
PARABLE SIZE.

4. FOR EXPLOSIONS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS TNT EQUIVALENT,
MORE EXTENSIVE STEPS MIGHT BE IN ORDER, INCLUDING POSSI-
BILITY OF PROVIDING FOR LOCAL SEISMIC MONITORING
INSTRUMENTATION. DEL BELIEVES WE NEED NOT SEEK TO WORK
OUT IN ADVANCE DETAILED PROCEDURES FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES.
IN ORDER TO DETER POTENTIAL FOR COLLATERAL NUCLEAR EXPLO-
SIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH VERY LARGE CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS,
DEL BELIEVES IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR EARLIER
PRENOTIFICATION (90 DAYS RATHER THAN 30) ALONG WITH
GENERAL LANGUAGE PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF INVITING OBSERVERS AND SETTING UP A LOCAL
SEISMIC NETWORK.

5. GIVEN THE ABOVE BACKGROUND, DEL PROPOSES THAT THERE BE:
(A) PRENOTIFICATION 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE FOR CHEMICAL EXPLO-
SIONS EXCEEDING 500 TONS TNT EQUIVALENT IN ANY ONE-
SECOND PERIOD; TO INCLUDE PLANNED DATE OF EXPLOSION,
APPROXIMATE LOCATION, AND PLANNED MAXIMUM ENERGY RELEASE

(IN TERMS OF TNT EQUIVALENT IN ANY ONE-SECOND PERIOD); AND
(B) PRENOTIFICATION 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CHEMICAL EXPLO-
SIONS EXCEEDING 2,500 TONS OF TNT EQUIVALENT PER SECOND,
INCLUDING SAME INFORMATION AS ABOVE, THE LONGER TIME PERIOD
TO ALLOW CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBILITY OF INVITING OBSERVERS
AND SETTING UP A LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK. WARNKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE, LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA08678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0282
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USCTB
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwyt.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07445e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 GENEVA 6106, 78 STATE 246423, 78 GENEVA 8860
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2458955
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: PRENOTIFICATION OF LARGE CHEMICAL EXPLOSIONS
TAGS: PARM, US, UK, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07445e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014